



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/602,671	06/25/2003	Yukinori Noguchi	2091-0286P	1973

2292 7590 10/02/2006

BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH
PO BOX 747
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747

EXAMINER

BAUM, RONALD

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2136

DATE MAILED: 10/02/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/602,671

Applicant(s)

NOGUCHI, YUKINORI

Examiner

Ronald Baum

Art Unit

2136

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 June 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-5 are pending for examination.
2. Claims 1-5 are rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kuzma, U.S.

Patent 5,771,355.

4. As per claim 1; "An image data management apparatus comprising:
property information obtaining means for obtaining property information of
an image data set to be managed *[figures 1-6 and associated descriptions,*
whereas the creation of email messages (i.e., source email client/terminal application
GUI 'obtaining means') and associated attachments (i.e., photographs, image files in
various appropriate formats, etc.,) such that creation of the email/attachments include
the creation of associated properties involved in the authorship, forwarding, security
(i.e., cryptographic encryption/decryption), management, compression
parameters/protocols, storage (source and destination with associated references versus

Art Unit: 2136

the content alone aspects), clearly encompasses the claimed limitations as broadly interpreted by the examiner.];

security processing method setting means for setting a security processing method for

each of items of the property information *[figures 1-6 and associated*

descriptions, whereas the creation of email messages/associated attachments inclusive of

associated properties involved in the security (i.e., cryptographic security

policy/encryption/decryption), clearly encompasses the claimed limitations as broadly

interpreted by the examiner.];

security processing means for carrying out security processing on

each of the items of the property information according to

the security processing method that has been set *[figures 1-6 and*

associated descriptions, whereas the creation of email messages/associated

attachments inclusive of associated properties involved in the security (i.e.,

cryptographic security policy/encryption/decryption), clearly encompasses the

claimed limitations as broadly interpreted by the examiner.];

attachment means for attaching

the property information having been subjected to

the security processing to the image data set *[figures 1-6 and associated*

descriptions, whereas the creation of email messages/associated attachments

inclusive of associated properties involved in the security (i.e., cryptographic

security policy/encryption/decryption) at the properties/content

creation/transfer/storage level, clearly encompasses the claimed limitations as broadly interpreted by the examiner.]; and

image data storage means for storing the image data set

attached with the property information *[figures 1-6 and associated descriptions, whereas the creation of email messages/associated attachment(s) inclusive of associated properties involved in the security (i.e., cryptographic security policy/encryption/decryption) at the properties/content creation/transfer/storage level, clearly encompasses the claimed limitations as broadly interpreted by the examiner.]*”.

5. Claim 2 ***additionally recites*** the limitation that; “An image data management apparatus as defined in claim 1, further comprising:

attachment decision means for

setting whether each of the items of the property information

is attached to the image data set; and

property information storage means for storing, in relation to the image data set,

the item or items of the property information

that have been set to be not attached,

wherein the attachment means attaches only

the remaining items of the property information that

have been set to be attached.”.

The teachings of Kuzma suggest such limitations (figures 1-6 and associated descriptions, whereas the creation of email messages/associated attachments inclusive of associated properties

Art Unit: 2136

involved in the authorship (i.e., properties of, and content context aspects in terms of what does and does not get attached/specified) at the properties/content creation/transfer/storage level, clearly encompasses the claimed limitations as broadly interpreted by the examiner.).

6. Claim 3 *additionally recites* the limitation that; “An image data management apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein

the security processing method that can be set by the security processing method setting means refers to

no processing,

encryption processing, or

electronic watermark processing.”.

The teachings of Kuzma suggest such limitations (figures 1-6 and associated descriptions, whereas the creation of email messages/associated attachments inclusive of associated properties involved in the security (i.e., cryptographic security policy/encryption/decryption selection and parameter specifics), clearly encompasses the claimed limitations as broadly interpreted by the examiner.).

7. Claim 4 *additionally recites* the limitation that; “An image data management apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein

the image data storage means and the property information storage means are

connected to each other via a network.”.

Art Unit: 2136

The teachings of Kuzma suggest such limitations (figures 1-6 and associated descriptions, whereas the creation of email messages/associated attachment(s) inclusive of associated properties involved in the transfer/storage (inherent internal node cache/buffer and application specific storage as files, etc.,) at the properties/content creation/transfer/storage level as concerned with the associated information/files references (i.e., URLs, reference pointers, etc.,) so transferred across the network at a LAN, WAN Internet, etc., level, clearly encompasses the claimed limitations as broadly interpreted by the examiner.).

8. Claim 5 *additionally recites* the limitation that; “An image data management apparatus as defined in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein

the property information includes

an item representing a parameter of image processing

to be carried out on the image data set.”.

The teachings of Kuzma suggest such limitations (figures 1-6 and associated descriptions, whereas the creation of email messages/associated attachments inclusive of associated properties involved in the authorship (i.e., properties of, and content context aspects in terms of what does and does not get attached/specified) at the properties/content creation/transfer/storage level, and rendering aspects (i.e., MPEG, JPEG, file characteristics/parameters, linked image object URLs, compression, etc.,), clearly encompasses the claimed limitations as broadly interpreted by the examiner.).

Art Unit: 2136


Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from examiner should be directed to Ronald Baum, whose telephone number is (571) 272-3861, and whose unofficial Fax number is (571) 273-3861 and unofficial email is Ronald.baum@uspto.gov. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh, can be reached at (571) 272-3795. The Fax number for the organization where this application is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. For more information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

NASSER MOAZZAMI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100


9/28/06

Ronald Baum

Patent Examiner

